

**BROOME COUNTY YOUNG DEMOCRATS
2010 CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**



AS AMENDED ON MARCH 28, 2010

PREAMBLE

Our purpose is to pursue the ideas of liberty, justice, and freedom for all regardless of race, religion, or sex. We shall pursue these ideas through support of the Democratic Party and its ideas, ideals, and candidates. With these thoughts we establish this constitution.

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Broome County Young Democrats (referred to hereafter as BCYD).

§ 2. The Broome County Young Democrats shall be chartered with, and affiliated with the New York State Young Democrats, and by and through the New York State Young Democrats, shall be affiliated with the Young Democrats of America.

§ 3. The purpose of the BCYD is:

- A. To work as closely as possible with all levels of the Democratic Party;
- B. To support and elect Democratic candidates to public office;
- C. To enhance the interest and knowledge of young people in government and political process;
- D. To train and develop young people for positions of leadership; and

E. To increase the role of under-represented people in our Party, government, and society.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1. Membership requirements for the BCYD shall be the same as those of the Young Democrats of America, except that members must reside in or be registered to vote in Broome County. These requirements shall be as follows:

- A. BCYD shall be open to any resident of the county of Broome who is age sixteen (16) to thirty-six (36) and believes in the principles of the Democratic Party; and
- B. Membership shall not be affected by race, color, national origin, sex, or physical handicap.

§ 2. An honorary member may be elected by a majority vote at any meeting of the BCYD. Honorary members shall have none of the obligations of membership in BCYD, but shall be entitled to the privileges except those of making motions, of voting, and of holding office.

§ 3. Each member shall be obligated to pay such dues and other fees as the BCYD shall set for the membership.

ARTICLE III: OFFICERS

Section 1. The BCYD shall be composed of the BCYD Executive Board and the remaining members. The Executive Board shall consist of the elected and appointed officers of the BCYD.

§ 2. The elected officers shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

§ 3. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by this Constitution, By-Laws, and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the BCYD.

§ 4. Each elected officer shall be elected by a vote of the BCYD and shall serve until his or her successor is elected or their resignation is submitted to the President. Each officer's term shall begin upon the adjournment of the meeting at which he or she is elected.

§ 5. Any dispute regarding the election of an officer may be submitted to the Executive Committee of the New York State Young Democrats. The Executive Committee may take any action it deems necessary to resolve the dispute.

§ 6. In the event of a vacancy or temporary absence or disability in the office of President, the Vice-President shall assume the office. In the event of another vacancy, the President shall appoint a replacement, pending approval by the Executive Board, to serve the remainder of the term.

§ 7. The Executive Board shall meet no less than two (2) times during the course of one (1) year.

§ 8. A quorum of the Executive Board shall be a majority of the members of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICER DUTIES

Section 1. The chapter President shall be the chief executive officer for the organization. He/she shall preside over all chapter meetings. The President shall have all of the following duties and powers. The absence of a specific power or duty from this list is not necessarily a denial of its existence.

- A. Establish administrative procedures not otherwise provided for by the Constitution or By-Laws of this chapter.
- B. Act for and on behalf of the county chapter when they are not in session.
- C. Attend all meetings of the State Young Democrats. When the attendance of the President is not possible, he/she shall appoint a suitable replacement and give said person his/her voting proxy.
- D. Establish the agenda for each meeting of the county chapter (general and executive).
- E. Serve as delegation chair to the State Young Democrats State Convention.

Broome County Young Democrats 2010 Constitution and By-Laws

F. Appoint or remove any non-elected officers and committee chairpersons, pending approval by the Executive Board.

G. Be an ex-officio member of all committees.

§ 2. The chapter Vice-President shall have all the following duties and powers. The absence of a specific power or duty from this list is not necessarily a denial of its existence.

A. Chair the Recruiting Committee.

B. Assist the Executive Board in media outreach, messaging, and the distribution of information to the membership. The Vice-President will work closely with the Executive Board to ensure consistent, and adequate, messaging.

C. Act as President Pro-Tempore in the absence of the President. In a case where the President's office becomes vacant; the Vice-President shall become the President automatically and shall assume all powers, duties and responsibilities associated with that position.

D. Assist the President.

§ 3. The chapter Secretary shall have all the following duties and powers. The absence of a specific power or duty from this list is not necessarily a denial of its existence.

A. Keep accurate minutes of all chapter meetings (general and Executive Board).

B. Make minutes, reports, BCYD literature and publications available to members via a central location.

Broome County Young Democrats 2010 Constitution and By-Laws

- E. Assist the Executive Board in notification for all chapter meetings and events. The Secretary will work closely with the Executive Board to ensure consistent, and adequate, messaging.
- C. Keep an accurate mailing list and phone directory of all members, including name, mailing address, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address.
- D. See to all correspondence of the chapter as directed by the President.

§ 4. The chapter Treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of the organization and shall have all the following duties and powers. The absence of a specific power or duty from this list is not necessarily a denial of its existence.

- A. Chair the Fundraising committee.
- B. Be responsible for developing fundraising ideas and soliciting donations.
- C. Maintain accurate financial records for the organization.
- D. Coordinate all financial activities, including any tax responsibilities with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).
- E. Advise the President and the Executive Board of the financial condition of the chapter.
- F. If deemed necessary by the Executive Board, the Treasurer shall file any reports for the State Democratic Party or the State Ethics Commission in a timely manner.

G. Present a report at each chapter meeting.

H. Write checks and make deposits as directed by the Executive Board. The Treasurer shall not have the right to make financial transactions without the approval of the Executive Board.

§ 5. Any non-elected officer appointed by the President and confirmed by the Executive Board shall have any duties and powers as agreed to by the President and Executive Board or outlined in the by-laws. The absence of a specific power or duty is not necessarily a denial of its existence. The term of any non-elected officer or committee chair shall not exceed that of the President.

ARTICLE V: ELECTIONS

Section 1. Elections of officers shall be held at the first meeting in September of each year. All terms are for one (1) year.

§ 2. The order of nominations and elections shall be as follows: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

§ 3. Members of the general body may submit an absentee ballot to the Secretary in the event that s/he is unable to attend a meeting in which an election shall be held.

§ 4. Nominations for officers will be made at the meeting prior to the election. All nominees must be current members at the

time of nomination and election. A member's proxy or advanced written notice will be sufficient to accept or decline a nomination if a nominee is not present at the meeting.

§ 5. The Secretary shall provide all members with an absentee ballot at least seven (7) days prior to a meeting in which an election shall be held.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

Section 1. The BCYD general body shall meet no less than two (2) times during the course of one (1) year.

§ 2. The regular meetings of the BCYD shall be scheduled by the President. The President or Secretary will shall provided at least seven (7) days notice to each member of the BCYD prior to any regular meeting thereof.

§ 3. Special meetings of the BCYD may be called by the President and shall be called upon the written request to the President and the Secretary of a majority of members of the BCYD. Except in an emergency, the President or the Secretary shall provide at least three (3) days written notice to each member of the BCYD prior to any special meeting thereof.

§ 4. Twenty-five (25) percent of BCYD members present in person or via proxy shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting business.

Broome County Young Democrats 2010 Constitution and By-Laws

§ 5. The BCYD shall not act in any manner not consistent with this Constitution, the Constitution of the New York State Young Democrats, any applicable rule, or the New York State Democratic Committee.

§ 6. Members of the general body may submit a vote proxy form to another voting member of the general body in the event that s/he is unable to attend a meeting in which a vote shall be held.

§ 7. All vote proxy forms shall be transferable and members of the general body may hold a maximum of two (2).

ARTICLE VII: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the BCYD in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution, the Constitution of the New York State Young Democrats, any applicable rule, or the New York State Democratic Committee.

§ 2. The parliamentary authority adopted by the organization shall govern all disciplinary proceedings, subject to the provision for disciplinary proceedings found in the Constitution of the New York State Young Democrats as made applicable to the BCYD.

§ 3. The President may appoint a chapter Parliamentarian, pending approval by the Executive Board, who shall be a member

Broome County Young Democrats 2010 Constitution and By-Laws
of the BCYD but may not be an elected officer or committee
chairperson.

§ 4. The Parliamentarian shall assist the President and members
in the conduct of meetings under appropriate procedure.

§ 5. The Parliamentarian shall conduct an annual review of the
BCYD Constitution and By-Laws to ensure that they are observed
and appropriate, and pursue amendments and by-laws thereof as
needed.

ARTICLE VIII: STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. There shall be two (2) standing committees. These
committees shall be the Fundraising committee and the Recruiting
committee. Each of these committees shall have at least three
(3) members.

§ 2. The chairpersons shall appoint and may remove any members
of the standing committees, except for the President.

§ 3. Standing committees shall meet at least two (2) times
during the course of one (1) year.

§ 4. A quorum of the standing committees shall be a majority of
the committee membership.

§ 5. The standing committee meetings shall be scheduled by the
chairperson. Each committee member shall be provided with at
least seven (7) days notice prior to any regular meeting of a
standing committee thereof.

§ 6. Special meetings of the standing committees may be called by the President or chairperson. Except in an emergency, each committee member shall be provided with at least three (3) days written notice to any special meeting thereof.

§ 7. The chairperson shall establish the agenda for any regular standing committee meeting. The President or chairperson calling any special meeting of a standing committee shall establish the agenda thereof.

§ 8. The standing committee chairperson shall report at each Executive Board and general meeting.

ARTICLE IX: FORMING NEW COMMITTEES

Section 1. The President, subject to approval by the Executive Board, can form and dissolve adjunct committees at any time for any reason they deem necessary.

§ 2. All adjunct committee chairpersons shall be appointed by the President, pending approval by the Executive Board.

§ 3. The meeting and reporting requirements of any adjunct committees shall be the same as for standing committees.

§ 4. The duties and powers of any adjunct committee chairpersons shall be the same as for standing committee chairpersons.

ARTICLE X: SUPPORTING CANDIDATES

Section 1. The BCYD shall never oppose a Democrat candidate for political office by supporting non-Democrat candidates. The BCYD reserves the right to endorse a Democrat candidate, either prior to or following a Primary Election.

ARTICLE XI: NUMBER OF OFFICES

Section 1. No person shall hold more than one (1) office at a time.

§ 2. No chapter officer shall serve as the chairperson of more than one (1) standing or adjunct committee.

ARTICLE XII: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to this constitution must be submitted in writing to the President and Secretary at least two (2) weeks (14 days) prior to the meeting at which the amendment shall be considered. The President is obligated to place the amendment on the agenda for that meeting.

§ 2. The amendment shall be considered approved if two-thirds (2/3) of the general body (in attendance or via proxy) vote in favor of the amendment.

ARTICLE XIII: IMPEACHMENT

Section 1. All members and elected offices may be subject to impeachment. The President reserves the right to remove anyone from an appointed position.

§ 2. Procedures for impeachment shall be as follows:

- A. Any member or person holding an elected or appointed office within the chapter may be impeached if found guilty of failure to adequately perform his/her duties; corruption in office; disloyalty to the Democratic Party or BCYD; failure to be and continue as an enrolled member of the Democratic Party or a resident of Broome County; or any conduct, criminal or degrading in character, that may harm the reputation or operation of this organization.
- B. Any member of the BCYD may provide the Executive Board with a written request for impeachment charges against another member. The person shall be notified of the charges against them no less than thirty days (30) prior to the meeting in which the impeachment shall be discussed.
- C. Members of the Executive Board who are not charged with shall hear the testimony of the person or persons charged and vote on findings and recommendations to be presented to the general body for a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

ARTICLE XIV: DISSOLUTION

Section 1. In the event of the dissolution of the Broome County Young Democrats, all funds in the treasury and other assets and records shall go to the Broome County Democratic Committee, after all obligations have been met, to be safeguarded.

ARTICLE XV: BY-LAWS

Section 1. By-Laws may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the general body (in attendance or via proxy) vote.

§ 2. By-Law amendments must comply with all procedural requirements for amendments as to notice.

§ 3. By-Laws may not conflict with the Constitution.

BY-LAW I: MEMBERSHIP DUES

Section 1. Dues for new membership shall be set at twenty dollars (\$20) per year and effective immediately upon receipt of payment.

§ 2. Dues for student membership shall be set at ten dollars (\$10) per year and effective immediately upon receipt of payment.

§ 3. Dues to renew any current or previous membership shall be applied consecutively to the expiration date of the current or previous membership, and shall be effective immediately upon receipt of payment.

§ 4. Dues for membership can be negotiated at the recommendation of the Treasurer with the approval of the Executive Board.

§ 5. All dues for membership shall be deposited into the banking account for the Broome County Young Democrats.

CERTIFICATION OF CHARTER

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the official Constitution of the Broome County Young Democrats as certified by the Officers of the BCYD Chapter and Chair of the Broome County Democratic Committee.

Tara DeNucci, President Date

Marcia Grippen, Vice-President Date

Jenni Royer, Secretary Date

Kim Zeamer, Treasurer Date

Mike Kennerknecht, Parliamentarian Date

Tony Fiala, Chairman, Broome Co. Democratic Committee Date